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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Recommendations of the Asia-Pacific Workshop on Multilateral Cooperation in Space Technology and Applications

Information paper submitted by China

The Asia-Pacific Workshop on Multilateral Cooperation in Space Technology and Applications, jointly organized by the China International Exchange Centre for Space Science and Technology (CIECS), the Chinese Society of Astronautics (CSA), the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) and the Thailand Ministry of Transport and Communications (MOTC), attended by participants from Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Turkmenistan, the United States of America, and Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan area, and the United Nations, was held at Beijing, China, from 30 November to 5 December 1992.

H.E. Mr. Qian Qichen, State Councillor and Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Chinese Government, addressed the opening ceremony. H.E. Mr. Jiang Zhemin, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, met with the participants of the Workshop.

Through discussions and consultations during the Workshop, the participants,

Bearing in mind that the peaceful uses of outer space for the good of all human beings should be the unique purpose of enhancing international cooperation in space,

Noting that space technology and its applications are exerting a widespread and profound influence on the economic development of the world and the progress of human society,

Recognizing that the development of space technology and its applications in the Asia-Pacific region will engender fresh vigour in the continual economic growth in the region,

Realizing the need to develop and foster multilateral cooperation in space technology and applications in the Asia-Pacific region, due to the very nature of the high investment and comprehensive involvement in space programmes, with a view to pooling both human and material resources, and to benefiting the countries in the region,

Appreciating the dynamic role played by the Governments of China, Pakistan and Thailand in arranging the Workshop for stimulating multilateral cooperation in space technology and applications in the region,

Believing that this kind of regional cooperation has complementarity, with a strong will to absorb the modern technology from any country,

Convinced of the need for and the optimistic prospects of sustaining and enhancing multilateral cooperation in space technology and applications in the region,

Unanimously recommend:

1. Enhancement of multilateral and bilateral cooperation in space technology and its applications in the Asia-Pacific region, and the identification of modes and approaches in this regard;

2. Adoption of the guiding principles for multilateral cooperation in space technology and applications in the region, as follows:

(a) To mutually respect the rights of each country in decision-making on the modes of space development based on its national perspectives and requirements, taking fully into account the diversity in the region;

(b) To promote multilateral and bilateral cooperation in space technology and its applications for the mutual benefit of all the countries in the region;

(c) To persevere in strengthening regional cooperation in space technology and its applications by means of the mutual exchange of information consistent with the laws, regulations and commercial interests of the participating nations;

(d) To seek and provide assistance within the Asia-Pacific countries as far as possible, for the development of space technology and applications;

(e) To seek common ground on major issues while reserving differences on minor ones through mutual consultations and dialogue;

3. Formation of a liaison committee for Asia-Pacific multilateral cooperation in space technology and applications, acknowledging the necessity of setting up a vital linkage among the countries of the region for this purpose; and the entrusting of China with the responsibility to act as the Coordinator of the Liaison Committee during the first two years of its establishment. The Liaison Committee shall be composed of the official representatives from the participating countries in the region to discuss/discharge the following work:

(a) To formulate proposals on and organize the conferences on multilateral cooperation in space technology and applications in the region;

(b) To coordinate with and strengthen the existing training centres in the Asia-Pacific region for imparting training to the necessary qualified personnel in space technology, and if necessary, to plan for the establishment of new Asia-Pacific training centres;

(c) To plan for a mechanism for the exchange of regional data on multilateral cooperation in space technology and applications and to publish periodic reports on regional space activities;

(d) To identify and recommend potential multilateral cooperation projects, the formation of the Project Coordination Committee and organization of the working groups on various projects of common interest, including, inter alia, the following:

(1) Microgravity experiments;

(2) Small satellite technology;

(3) Remote-sensing satellite technology/applications;

(4) Satellite disaster mitigation systems;

(5) Communications satellite technology/applications;

(6) Others;

(e) To coordinate other relevant activities of multilateral cooperation in space technology and applications;

4. The convening of the Asia-Pacific Conference on Multilateral Cooperation in Space Technology and Applications in Thailand, at the end of 1993 or early 1994, to review and discuss further the modes, approaches and projects of Asia-Pacific multilateral cooperation in space technology and applications, and the relevant issues involved in further promoting multilateral cooperation in the region.

The above recommendations were adopted by consensus at the plenary session of the Workshop on 3 December 1992.